



EDDIE A. PEREZ
MAYOR

July 1, 2009

To the residents of Hartford:

It is with mixed emotion that I present to you the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Adopted Budget for the City of Hartford. While I am proud to say that it is the product of hard work and compromise on all sides, it is also a product of many painful decisions. The Court of Common Council approved the budget on May 31, 2009. If that had not happened, we would have had to resort to the previous budget and that would have called for additional revenues to be raised at the expense of our taxpayers.

I have said all along that is the toughest budget ever. As a nation, we face the harshest economic times since the Great Depression. Sacrifice on all levels has been made and will continue to be made as we go forward.

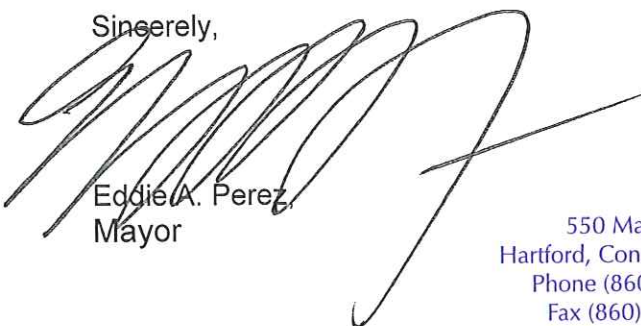
As a City, we are doing more with less. We have made staffing cuts and we are working with our unions for concessions to lessen any potential job reductions in the future. Non-union and unclassified workers have already agreed to eight furlough days over the next two years. Also, unfortunately, there is going to be another increase in the mil rate that is equal to \$188 per year or \$4 per week for the average Hartford homeowner.

Despite all of this, the City of Hartford has maintained its commitment to core services, public safety and education. I am also proud of the commitment to job creation. An Arts and Heritage Stimulus package is included in this budget that builds upon Hartford's renown Arts community and will retain or create 200 jobs related to this revenue generator that attracts people from around the world.

Finally, I would like to commend everyone who worked to make the passage of this budget possible. From the cooperation of the departments in preparing their individual budgets, to the hard work of the staff in assembling the budget, this truly was a team effort. I also would like to commend the members of the Court of Common Council for their debate of and dedication to the issues.

This budget represents what can be accomplished when people come together in tough times and compromise for the best interest of the City. Remember what is written on the City Seal... "After the Clouds... the Sun."

Sincerely,



Eddie A. Perez,
Mayor

550 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
Phone (860) 543-8500
Fax (860) 722-6606

